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PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 040894-5574

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
Manabu AKAMATSU et al.)	Confirmation No.: 4700
Application No.: 09/659,566 .)	Group Art Unit: 2622
Filed: September 11, 2000 .)	Examiner: Unassigned
For: IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD, AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS)	

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MAR 10 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application. Accordingly, Applicants do not believe that a fee is due for filing this paper.

The listed document was cited in an European Search Report dated January 27, 2003 in a counterpart European patent application. A copy of the European Search Report is attached hereto.

A copy of the listed document is attached.

Applicants request that the Examiner consider the listed document and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitute "Prior Art." If it should be determined that the listed document does not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the document.

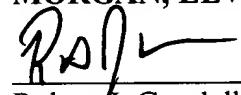
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the document be applied against the claims of the present application.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By:



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Dated: March 6, 2003

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